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THE

RANGE

GRAZING

RIDER

SERVICE

THE SAGA OF THE LONGHORN

The importation of cattle from "south of the border" has increased during the past year and the fact that many of these Mexican cattle carry the strain of the original Texas longhorns in their blood brings to mind a colorful saga which began over 400 years ago when the first cattle were brought to American shores by Gregorio Villalobos, a governor-general sent to "New Spain" in 1521. These cattle were the progenitors of the millions of longhorns that spread over the whole plains country from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border, and became the pioneers of our western cattle industry.

Probably fewer than 250 real Texas longhorn cattle are in existence today, according to the Bureau of Biological Survey. Following the Civil War, breeders began raising heavier, beefier cattle and by 1920 it became apparent that only prompt action could save the Texas longhorn from extinction. The largest herd now is at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, near Cache, Oklahoma, where about 145 of these picturesque animals roam the ranges under the protection of the Biological Survey.

Longhorns are leggy, hardy, active, with long keen horns and an aggressive disposition. In color they range from black, brindle, red, and white, to various combinations of these colors. They have coarse hairs about the forehead and in the ears. In size, they seem to vary with the locality--on the Wichita refuge, they weigh from 800 to 2000 pounds.

Longhorns are well suited to arid conditions and often graze on rough hills at great distances from water. Slow of growth, a longhorn requires two or three more years to attain maturity than do more desirable breeds; it keeps growing until 7 or 8 years old. As long as the animal grows, the horns continue to grow. Horns have been recorded with a spread from six, seven, and even eight feet from tip to tip.

Usually longhorns are surly, mean, and ready to fight on the slightest provocation. When driven they string out and walk exceptionally fast. They are easily frightened and stampede as quick as a flash. Cowboys, in the early days, were known to quiet a milling herd by speaking softly or singing.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE--

In newly opened areas, along well-defined stock driveways, and on grazing areas for better distribution. That is one of the objectives of the Arizona region for 1940. This extensive water development program calls for the construction of tanks which will vary in size from 4 to 25 acre feet, most of the charco or pit type. A number of reservoirs with masonry dam construction are also planned.

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ARIZONA CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Resolution No. 7, adopted by the Arizona Cattle Growers at their 36th Annual Convention in Nogales on February 19 and 20, reads as follows:

Grazing Administration Under the Department of the Interior

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior is successfully administering the lands within grazing districts in Arizona, for which Arizona stockmen are very grateful, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior is rapidly completing its lease program under section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act, and

WHEREAS, it is the ultimate purpose of the Interior Department to further stabilize our industry by granting longer term permits and leases,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association commends the Department of the Interior for its co-operative manner of administration in matters pertaining to public grazing lands under its jurisdiction and urges that the Department of the Interior as rapidly as possible:

- (1) Grant long term permits within grazing districts
- (2) Issue long term leases under section 15 of the Taylor Act
- (3) Complete all State land selections and exchanges.

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CCC JOB TRAINING

At the CCC Educational Conference at Boise, Idaho early this month, much interest was taken in a scale-model bridge constructed by enrollees of G-89, Jordan Valley under the direction of Educational Adviser Lester H. Thornburg and Foreman McCollum. All construction parts, rubble piers, joists, sills, floor beams, braces, abutment logs, et cetera are shown by the model which was considered a splendid illustration of the practical value of CCC job training.

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In the March 1940 Montana Wool Growers News Letter there is reproduced a winter grazing scene on the W. O. Pound and Sons ranch at Lavina, Montana, showing cattle digging through the snow for grass. In his letter to Mr. Etchepare, of the News Letter, Mr. Robert T. Pound writes: "If livestock can get something to eat when they do get through the snow they show quite a little enthusiasm about the job. We feed very little hay ordinary years, although we have ample supplies if the snow gets too deep. A rancher can easily get a good many dollars freight into a bunch of cattle or a band of sheep and freight-dollars on outside feed do not fill bellies, besides spoiling profits. We think it is better to have some grass left over every year. It is cheap insurance. The freight alone on three or four tons of concentrates will rent a section of grass. In a grass country, the cheapest feed is grass!"

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#### A BIG BOUQUET FOR THE FELLOWS AT G-97!

The Kinama, Idaho camp recently passed its goal of 500 accident-free days. Now that's a mark for other camps to strive for!

In observance of the occasion, Mr. Paul Church, State Patrolman, visited the camp and gave a short talk on safety.

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#### TO IMPROVE NAVAJO WOOL

A plan to improve the Navajo wools by crossing the Navajo sheep with other breeds is proposed by Mr. James T. Jardine, chief of research, Department of Agriculture, who believes that the prime requisite in sheep, for much of the southwestern range country, is ability to exist and thrive under very hard conditions. According to this authority, the Navajo sheep of Arizona and New Mexico are superior in this respect; on the other hand, they are inferior in carcass quality and yield of wool. The development, for southwestern ranges, of a sheep that will possess the stamina of the Navajo Indian stock and the fine fiber characteristics of carefully bred flocks is being sought. The perfection of the desirable qualities of the Navajo sheep and the combination of these with good qualities of improved breeds, would benefit sheep breeders in many regions of western United States, and more nearly meet the economic requirements of the Navajo Indians, Mr. Jardine believes. (Wyoming Wool Grower, March 20, 1940.)

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Camp G-35, Milford, Utah, entered several floats in the Milford Homecoming Celebration parade. The principal float of the Grazing Service group, for which the camp received honorable mention, depicted the construction of a miniature reservoir, showing water in the storage basin, with vegetation along the sides and a truck trail across the top of the dam. Other floats depicting truck trail construction, rodent control, and revegetation were also used in the parade. Foreman Emery T. Snyder and Thomas R. Parry supervised the construction of the floats by enrollees in the camp.

PROPER USE

The State Board of Land Commissioners of Montana recently passed a resolution whereby a field investigation will be made to determine land productivity, usage, and conservation before a sale of State land shall be ordered. The effect of the breaking up of additional areas on general local situations and the effect upon present users of adjacent or contiguous lands will be determined so that such sale will conform to the rule of establishing only sound economic units. It has been further resolved by the Board that such sale shall be ordered only when the plowing up of the land sold shall accord with accepted land use policies in the State and in connection with bona fide settlement and home building, and under no circumstances for speculation.

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An old truck unit which has been surveyed for disposal was converted into a power dragline for use as stationary power by G-94, Midway, Idaho. This power may be used for excavation of waterholes, loading dump trucks, and many other jobs that will speed construction projects and give better opportunity to use tractors for the heavier jobs. That's resourcefulness!

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